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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 30th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 17 July 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Acharya ..... (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Election of officers (*continued*)

1. **The Chairman** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Mr. Vidouris (Greece) for the post of Vice-Chairman.

2. *Mr. Vidouris (Greece) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

Agenda item 33: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/61/19 (Part II) and (Part III); A/C.4/61/L.20; A/C.4/61/L.21)

3. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly, at the recommendation of the Committee, had adopted resolution 61/267 on 16 May 2007, and that the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts had been requested to continue its consideration of the revised draft model memorandum of understanding with troop-contributing countries at a resumed session before the end of June. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had therefore held a resumed session on 11 June and submitted its report, contained in document A/61/19 (Part III). The report on the Special Committee's regular session was contained in document A/61/19 (Part II). He also drew attention to the draft resolutions submitted under the item, contained in documents A/C.4/61/L.20 and L.21.

4. **Mr. Elsherbini** ((Egypt), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations), introducing parts II and III of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, said that in part II of the report, the Special Committee expressed support for the Secretary-General's intention to enhance the United Nations capacity for integrated multidimensional peacekeeping operations and to realign the Secretariat, with the goal of achieving the key objectives outlined in the reform agenda of the Peace Operations 2010 initiative.

5. Continuing to stress the importance of the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, the Special Committee requested that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security develop a mechanism for undertaking periodic risk analyses, enhance the protection of information and improve the quality of locally employed security personnel. It recommended that the Secretariat explore the possibility of having seconded security personnel to enhance safety and security in peacekeeping operations, and that regular meetings be held between the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and representatives of troop-contributing countries.

6. With regard to conduct and discipline, the report invited the President of the General Assembly to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group to consider the draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel, with a view to reporting back to the General Assembly before the end of the sixty-first session.

7. Reiterating that urgent strengthening of military capacities was a priority, the Special Committee requested the Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive review of the role and functioning of the strategic military cell, and expressed support for upgrading the post of the Military Adviser to the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

8. With rapid deployment continuing to be an important topic, and to facilitate due consideration of enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, the Special Committee expressed support for the re-establishment of an informal working group to work closely with the Secretariat to further develop the concept and submit a report to the General Assembly, and also recommended further exploring partnerships with such regional actors as the African Union.

9. With regard to strengthening United Nations mission headquarters, the Special Committee requested the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a working group to investigate the requirement to strengthen headquarters operational capacity for new missions and offer an assessment, at its next substantive session, of progress on the effectiveness of joint operations and mission analysis centres in the field. It also recommended the establishment of standard operations procedures and guidance for training to ensure the effectiveness of the Standing Police Capacity, and urged interested stakeholders to undertake discussions over the coming year on how equipment needs might be met.

10. Underscoring the importance of coherent strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee recommended that the Department

of Peacekeeping Operations further explore opportunities for partnerships with international financial institutions as well as regional arrangements, and reiterated the need to ensure efficient and orderly transitions between peacekeeping operations and integrated offices, as well as for a coherent and coordinated approach to peacebuilding. It also called on the Secretariat to consider how best to structure headquarters support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes while continuing to work in the inter-agency working group.

11. The Special Committee welcomed the inclusion of quick-impact projects in peacekeeping operations, and emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy on resource allocation for their implementation. It also stressed the need to enhance cooperation with troop-contributing countries. It recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations establish a framework for practical cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in order to enhance peacekeeping efforts, and welcomed the signing of the United Nations-African Union joint declaration emphasizing the United Nations system's commitment to the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities.

12. The report highlighted the necessity of adequate training for United Nations peacekeeping personnel and encouraged cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States. The Special Committee called on the Secretariat to fill the key leadership post within the Integrated Training Service as a matter of urgency, and for the Service to be provided with adequate resources. It recommended that the Integrated Training Service develop a set of training standards for peacekeeping missions and related programmes, and requested that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations hold an urgent meeting of experts to review United Nations peacekeeping publications with a view to prioritizing their translation, as well as encouraging the translation of training modules into official languages relevant to the missions. The report also stressed the importance of incorporating best practices and lessons learned into the planning and conduct of current and future missions.

13. On the important issue of personnel matters, the report recommended that the Secretary-General provide further justification for his proposal to create a professional civilian staff capacity to enhance peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee encouraged the employment of staff and experts competent in the Secretariat's working languages and possessing skills in languages relevant to the mission area. Additionally, it requested the Secretary-General to review the current death and disability policy with a view to harmonizing existing policies and streamlining the claims process.

14. Finally, on financial issues, the Special Committee stressed the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions, and urged the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements.

15. Part III of the report had been adopted at the resumed session of the Special Committee on 11 June 2007, convened to review the outcome of the consideration by the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the revised draft model memorandum of understanding. At that meeting, the Special Committee had recommended that the General Assembly request that the Secretary-General should incorporate in the model memorandum of understanding the amendments contained in the revised draft model memorandum of understanding annexed to its report.

16. Introducing draft resolutions A/C.4/61/L.20, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping in all its aspects", and A/C.4/61/L.21 entitled "Comprehensive review of a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations", he expressed the hope that the draft resolutions would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.21: Comprehensive review of a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations

17. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking with regard to the financial implications of the draft resolution, said that in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations contained in paragraph 3 of its report (A/61/19 (Part III)), that the Secretary-General should be requested to include in the model memorandum of understanding the amendments contained in the annex of its report.

18. Training requirements such as those provided in paragraph 3 of article 7 bis and paragraph 4 of article 7 ter of the annex would normally be included in the respective training budgets of the peacekeeping missions concerned.

19. Paragraph 4 (g) of article 7 quater of the annex provided that the United Nations, upon request of the Government, should provide administrative and logistic support to the National Investigations Officers while they were in the mission area or host country; and that the Secretary-General would provide financial support as appropriate for the deployment of National Investigations Officers in situations where their presence was requested by the United Nations and where financial support was requested by the Government. It was not currently possible to estimate the number of such cases. However, the related costs would be absorbed within the budgets of the peacekeeping missions concerned, and reported in the context of the performance report, as necessary. Accordingly, adoption of the draft resolution would not give rise to any financial implications at that time.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.21 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.20: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping in all its aspects

21. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) drew the attention of the Committee to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and suggested that the Committee wait for the oral statement on the programme budget implications, which was not yet available; it was his understanding, however, that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

22. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee take action on draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.20 without awaiting the oral statement.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.4/61/L.20 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.